

October 8, 2015
Joint Capital Planning Committee
Town Room, 2:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 2:00

Committee members present were Connie Kruger, Bernie Kubiak, Katherine Appy, Rick Hood, Steve Bran and Tamson Ely. Absent were Jonathan McCabe and Doug Slaughter

Staff present were Sanford Pooler, Finance Director; Sonia Aldrich, Comptroller and Claire McGinnis, Treasurer/Collector.

Presenting: James Pistrang and Mandi Jo Hanneke

Documents included a Capital Request form for Electronic Voting Equipment and Capital request cover summary (chart).

The committee heard a description of changes required to the General Bylaws to allow the use of electronic voting systems at Town Meetings. The capital cost of \$26,000, the advantages and the disadvantages of the proposed system were reviewed. The proposed changes were not felt to abolish existing procedures for voting, but to provide for a more rapid, accurate, and tamper-resistant means of voting when the Moderator is unsure of a voice vote or when the usual numbers of town meeting members request a standing or tally vote. The JCPC explored a number of options, including renting or leasing electronic voting equipment, but was convinced that purchasing is the most cost-effective way to obtain this equipment.

Motion to recommend to the Town Manager an amendment the General Bylaws to allow the use of electronic voting systems in Town Meeting, approved 6-0 in favor with 2 absent.

Motion to recommend to the Town Manager a capital item of \$26,000 to pay for the purchase of an electronic voting system for Town Meeting, approved 6-0 with 2 absent.

Mr. Pooler presented a recommendation to repurpose bond proceeds originating from the project to renovate the East Street School building. Quotes for that renovation were significantly higher than estimates and made the originally planned renovation non-viable. Funds have been used to stabilize and secure the building at a lower cost, leaving unspent borrowed funds in the Treasury. These funds can be repurposed to projects with similar useful life and general fund purpose.

The first step is to qualify the original 2014 vote authorizing borrowing for the East Street School renovation to define the scaled down project by adding the language to that effect.

Motion to amend the 2014 vote as described, approved 6-0 with 2 absent.

The second step is to authorize a new purpose, as new needs arise, matching useful life and similarly funded purpose. Mr. Pooler presented the renovation of a portion of Amherst Regional Middle School to fit the LSSE relocation to that space for that departmental move. Cost

estimates for the capital project was \$150,000, summarizing costs of creating office space and purchasing related equipment.

Motion to recommend to the Town Manager a capital item of \$150,000 for renovations at ARMS in preparation for LSSE relocation, with the source of funding as East Street School borrowing proceeds, approved 6-0 with 2 absent.

Motion to adjourn at 3:00..